

**FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
JANUARY 28, 2014**

**MEETING MINUTES**

I. The Frederick County Human Relations Commission met on Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in the third floor conference room at Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland. Angela Spencer, HRC Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II. The following members were present:

Angela Spencer  
Tonya Amedon  
Jack Thomas  
Melissa Meath  
Oladimeji Ibraheem  
Annette Breiling  
Lisa Clark  
David Kaye

HRC members Blair Pettrey, Felicia Turner, Yemi Adeoye, Thaddeus Jah and Irene Packer-Halsey were absent.

The following members of the public attended the meeting:

FPD Chief Thomas Ledwell  
Pat Rosensteel  
Francisco Alves  
Kathleen Hartsock

III. Approval of the October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and November 26, 2013 meeting minutes

The October 29, 2013 minutes were unanimously approved with a motion from Melissa Meath and a second from David Kaye.

The November 26, 2013 minutes were unanimously approved with a motion from Lisa Clark and a second from Jack Thomas.

IV. Officers Report

a. Comments from the public

Chief Ledwell stated that there have been no further KKK solicitation incidents in the City of Frederick and no action had been taken regarding the previous incident.

b. Executive Committee

1. Angela commended the Commission for making an effort to attend meetings and meeting the quorum requirements and also for their hard work on behalf of the commission in 2013.

2. The Winter Retreat will be Saturday February 22, 2014 from 9 – 12 at the Public Safety Training Facility, the retreat will include a strategic planning session. No snow date was set.

3. The county is soliciting applications for membership for many Frederick County commissions including the HRC. Angela encouraged everyone to promote the opportunities to community members.

4. The HRC Awards Banquet will be held April 14, 2014 at Dutch's Daughter. The doors will open at 6pm and the program will begin at 6:30pm. Angela challenged the HRC members to get 5 ads and 5 sponsors each. The funds will help offset the cost of the banquet and the awards. The promotional packets will be ready for the members next week to help with solicitation.

5. Human Rights Day Forum – Angela will let everyone know if and when it will happen this year. With Blair Pettrey's resignation Angela has assigned Tonya as the CRC Chair.

6. Frederick County Public Schools MLK program on January 16<sup>th</sup> was attended by some of the members of the council and it was enjoyed by all attendees.

7. MLK Day Proclamation, Day of Service and Community Pot luck were all well attended by members, there were many stories shared about the events and how meaningful the events were to the members of the HRC and the public.

8. Angela Spencer and Rev. Shackelford were guests on the county cable access program "This week in Frederick County". The program highlighted MLK events in Frederick County. It was a great program and was also played on Commissioner Young's radio show.

c. HRC treasurer Jack Thomas reported that there is \$3,599.00 currently available to the HRC.

d. NAC/Community Updates – On Thursday, February 11, 2014 the NAC's will sponsor an open house from 6pm until 9pm at the American legion on Taney Avenue. Michele Bowman from the FCPD has organized this event as a way to get the word out to the communities about the NAC's.

e. Mentoring new HRC members – Angela asked that everyone continue to be a resource to the new members they were assigned to mentor. With some membership changes Angela will be making some reassignments.

## V. Committee Reports

### A. Community Relations Committee

1. Human Rights Day: Human Rights Day Forum – Angela will let everyone know if and when it will happen this year.

2. Human Relations Commission Annual Awards Banquet:

To be held April 14, 2014. Debbie Williams has been confirmed as the guest speaker.

Entertainment still needs to be arranged.

3. Naturalization Ceremony: The tentative date will be September 27, 2014. Kathleen Hartsock will check with Tuscarora High and let the commission know if the date can be confirmed at this time. The auditorium and cafeteria will need to be reserved.

### B. Government Relation Committee

1. Legislative Update Melissa Meath reported that there are several pieces of Legislation being worked on at the present time that should be watched.

a. Senate Bill 78 Human Trafficking Victims under age 21

b. Senate Bill 212 Fairness for all Marylanders Act

c. Senate Bill 237 Human Relations – Employment Discrimination – Protections for Interns

d. Senate Bill 270 Law Enforcement Personnel – Training – Human Trafficking Offenses

Annette Breiling noted that the 287G Trust Act is coming up for review and should be looked at as well.

2. Overview of homelessness and poverty - Melissa had nothing to report as she has not met with Michael Spurrier from the Community Action Agency yet.

Pat Rosensteel reported that she had attended Synergies Committee where the recent topic is homelessness. What the group discovered was that there are a lot of different understandings about what homelessness is. The group would like to establish a “No Wrong Door Policy” so everyone is disseminating the same information. The Citizens Services department has been charged with working on communication.

### C. Internal Relations Committee

1. The Winter Retreat/Strategic planning workshop will be held on February 22 at the Public Safety Training Facility, from 9am to 12pm.

2. Discussion was started regarding a possible Fair housing Event in April which is Fair Housing month. Angela will schedule a meeting with possible partners such as Craig Tyler, Jenny Short, or Kevin Walter.

## VI. New Business

- a. The HRC will send out a letter to former recipients of student scholarship awards, asking them to provide an update on what they are doing now and how they have been able to contribute to human rights.
- b. The Winter Retreat/Strategic planning workshop will be held on February 22 at the Public Safety Training Facility, from 9am to 12pm.
- c. A Tour of the Frederick County Adult Detention Center with the Sheriff/Detention Center Staff will be held sometime in March. Angela will let everyone know the date.
- d. The Black History Month Proclamation by the Frederick County Board of County Commissioners will be February 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Everyone is encouraged to attend and to arrive by 9am.
- e. Annette Breiling asked that the HRC consider look in into the use of discriminatory language such as “illegal alien” and “Washington Redskin”.

## VII. HRD Directors Report

- a. The Frederick County Commission for Women is seeking nominations for it Women of Excellence and Student Leadership Awards. The Deadline to submit a nomination is January 31, 2014. The banquet will be held on March 20, 2014 at Ceresville Mansion tickets are available for \$45.00 the membership of the HRC is encouraged to attend to make our presence known.

MAHRA Human Rights Day will be Held in Annapolis on Friday February 7, 2014 from 9-1. Lunch will be provided. Tonya is planning on attending if you would like to car pool get it touch with her.

Miles reported that he spoke at the silver Oak Academy this past Saturday, the theme was “What would America be like today if there had been no Dr. Martin Luther King? “ He shared his notes with the group.

Miles thanked Lisa and Ameri Corps for the work they did at the Boys and Girls Club on MLK day of service.

Miles thanked Annette for the work on the community pot luck.

Ruby Tuesdays on Guilford Drive will donate 20% of your bill toward Foster Care Families on the 29, 30, or 31 if you present the flyer.

COVE (Coalition Opposed to Violence and Extremism) will host its annual Hate Crimes Summit on Tuesday May 6, 2014 at Towson University. \$35.00 covers program materials, breakfast, lunch and parking hours are from 8am – 3:30pm.

Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle" is a film series presented by Hood College. The HRC is a listed sponsor. Films will be shown at 7pm on the following dates. In the Hoodson Auditorium at Rosenstock Hall: Feb 3, March 20, Sept 4 and Oct. 6.

Black History month Proclamation by the Board of County Commissioners will be February 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Black History month date for the Proclamation by the City of Frederick's Mayor and Board of Aldermen will be determined and the commission will be informed.

#### VIII. Upcoming Events

a. Kathleen reported that a Drug awareness Summit will be held at Middletown high school at 6:30 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be 3 additional summits held throughout the county in the spring. Kathleen will send out the information to the group.

#### IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm

Minutes submitted by Miles Ward of the Human Relation Department

#### February 2014 HRC Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the HRC will take place on Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, at Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, MD., in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room.

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The public is always invited to attend HRC monthly meetings. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Miles Ward, Frederick County Human Relations Department at (301) 600-1110, or dial 711 for Maryland Relay Services to make arrangements, no later than three (3) working days prior to the meeting.